

Hooker (1779–1832) who was the leading pomological artist of his day and a pupil of Franz Andreas Bauer; he also illustrated Salisbury's *Paradisus Londinensis*.—W. T. STEARN, London, England.

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AN UNUSUAL HABITAT FOR *CUSCUTA COMPACTA*.—*Cuscuta compacta* is familiar to New England botanists as a parasite on shrubs of all kinds in swamps and on pond-shores, chiefly in the regions (*e. g.* eastern Massachusetts and the sand-plains of the Connecticut valley) inhabited by the more austral elements of our flora. It was therefore rather surprising, last year, to find a vigorous growth of it on stems and petioles of Japanese ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata* (Sieb. & Zucc.) Planch.) on the walls of the Gray Herbarium building near the main entrance. The colony continues to flourish this year, without visible harm to the ivy, except that leaves in the immediate vicinity of the *Cuscuta* tend to fall early. This may well be the first record of *C. compacta* as a garden weed.

The nearest stations for the species represented in the Gray Herbarium and that of the New England Botanical Club or recorded in the Flora of the Boston District are: Middlesex Fells, Lexington, Waltham, Wellesley, Milton and Hingham. The minimum distance is four or five miles. How the rather heavy seeds of the *Cuscuta* could get to Cambridge from any of them is a question on which I can throw no light. It seems improbable that the highly sophisticated starlings which constitute the principal avifauna of the Gray Herbarium walls have ever penetrated feral swamps. And though the seeds might have arrived with dried specimens and been discarded with old papers, it is not usual at the Gray Herbarium to throw such rubbish out the front door—and there is no *Cuscuta* at the back.—C. A. WEATHERBY, Gray Herbarium.

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